

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY  
25 October 1973

INTELLIGENCE MEMORANDUM

MIDDLE EAST

Situation Report Number 80  
(As of 1630 EDT)

THE MILITARY SITUATION

GENERAL

(All times cited in military paragraphs are Cairo/Tel Aviv time, unless otherwise specified.)

1. Most forces on both fronts appeared to be under orders to observe the cease-fire this afternoon. Cairo claims, however, that Israeli tank, infantry and artillery units are again attacking Suez City.

DIA review(s)  
completed.

State Dept. review completed

4. The UN Security Council voted 14-0 to authorize countries other than the permanent UN members to make up a peace-keeping force for the Middle East.

EGYPTIAN FRONT

5. Most of the Egyptian front appeared to be quiet today, but Cairo claims Israeli ground and air forces continue to attack Suez City. Six of the seven UN observers on the Egyptian side of the cease-fire line reported no fighting as of 1800. The seventh observer, slated for the area of Suez City, has not been able to reach his post. Israeli air activity generally has been light and limited to defensive patrols over Israeli-controlled territory. At least 12 Israeli helicopters were seen at about 1800 flying supply missions to Israeli forces on the west bank.

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7. An Israeli military spokesman announced publicly today that in response to Cairo's request Israel would supply blood plasma to the Egyptian Third Army on the east bank. (See para. 19, 1130 SitRep.)

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SYRIAN FRONT

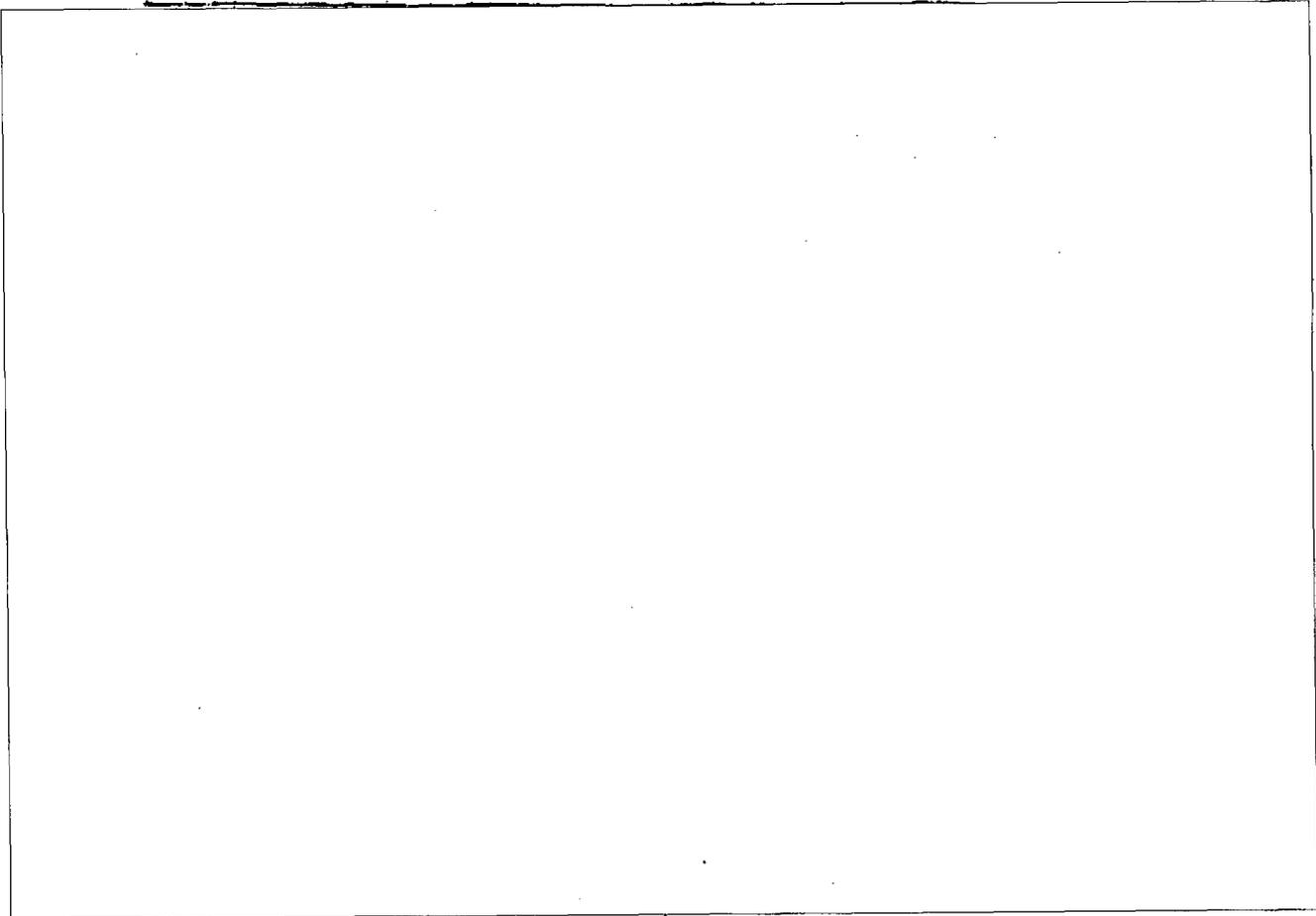
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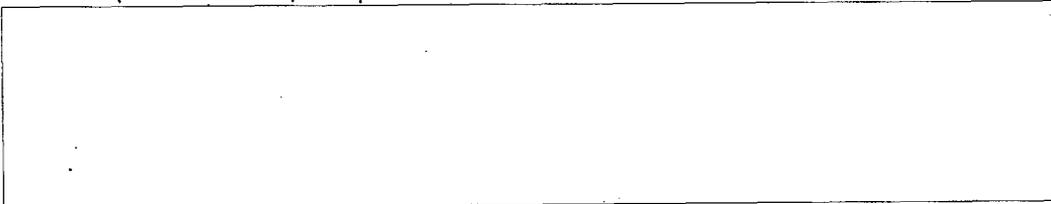
this afternoon, but the carriers Roosevelt and Kennedy have been ordered to the eastern Mediterranean. The three US carriers and their accompanying ships would give the US about 25-30 ships in this area, and the Soviets could be positioning themselves in anticipation of the arrival of the US units. The Soviets may intend these ships to present a show-of-force to the Israelis. They continue to Egyptian waters--which could take no more than four or five hours--the ships would be in a position to act as a deterrent to Israeli air and sea attacks along the Egyptian coast.

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STATUS OF SOVIET AND EAST EUROPEAN FORCES



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16. There are still indications from many sources that troop rotations are intended to proceed as planned, with reports of Soviet technical personnel already beginning to arrive in East Germany. Observations by US attaches in several Soviet and East European cities have turned nothing out of the ordinary.

19. Hungary: Unusually heavy security precautions have been taken at military bases at Szolnok and Kunmadaras. A Hungarian airborne battalion is stationed at Szolnok. These precautions could be related to an alert at those bases or it could be in anticipation of arrivals of Soviet troops at these bases.

20. An official statement from the Hungarian government today said the Hungarian government placed full responsibility for the cease-fire breakdown on the Israeli government. The statement demanded that Israel stop its "military aggression" immediately and withdraw to the 22 October cease-fire lines.

21. Czechoslovakia: The police guard outside the US embassy in Prague was increased considerably today. Czech officials claim they are reacting to rumors of demonstrations by Arab students, and seem determined that no untoward events take place.

22. Yugoslavia: Top members of the Yugoslav leadership met this afternoon in an expanded session that included federal, provincial and army leaders. The Yugoslav news agency reports that the conference, chaired by Tito, reviewed the Middle East situation and certain aspects of the "country's defense and security measures." This language implies an alert status for the Yugoslav military. 25X1

#### UNITED NATIONS

24. The non-aligned nations' Security Council resolution was approved this afternoon 14-0 with China abstaining. Agreement was assured when the USSR and the non-aligned sponsors agreed to a US amendment excluding troops from the permanent members of the Security Council from participating in the proposed UN peacekeeping force. The Chinese ambassador indicated he would not cast a veto. Also accepted was another US amendment changing the word "withdraw" to "return" in referring to the movement of forces back to the line of battle existing as of 1750 GMT on 22 October.

25. According to the UN Truce Supervision Organization (UNTSO) headquarters in Jerusalem thirteen observation teams are scheduled for deployment on both the Egyptian and Israeli sides of the battle lines on the Suez front. Thus far only two teams have been cleared by the Israelis for their side of the line--one at Adabiya and one at another point on the west bank salient. The new supervision line is approximately twice the length of the line before the current outbreak of hostilities. The US mission in Jerusalem terms the thirteen observation teams allotted for the task so small as to be "more symbolic than real."

26. On the Syrian front UNTSO has proposed that two observation posts formerly on the Syrian side be converted into patrols operating on the Israeli side of their salient and that four posts continue at their present locations. It is not known if Tel Aviv has agreed to these proposals. Damascus has agreed to three UNTSO patrols along their side of the Israeli salient in the north and continuation of two existing observation posts. UNTSO plans to propose a second stage of arrangements calling for reopening of four evacuated observations points and creation of three more patrols.

NATO

27. NATO Secretary-General Joseph Luns today warned that "alliance solidarity remains essential" in light of the Soviet Union's role in the present Middle East war. Soviet actions, he said, raise doubts about the genuineness of the Soviet interest in detente. Luns observed that there may be "a certain opportunism in the light of events on the battlefield, and one could maintain that Soviet behavior lends force to the argument that for the Soviet leadership detente is a tactic and no more." He recalled that the Soviet invasion of Czechoslovakia had followed a period of improving East-West relations.

EGYPTIAN-US ENCOUNTER

28. A US destroyer, the Charles F. Adams, encountered what it believes to be the Egyptian destroyer Fatch at 1135 this morning in the Red Sea. The Adams reported that the Fatch initiated no hostile action although its guns appeared to be manned. 25X1

SYRIA DECRIES US SR-71 FLIGHT

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IRAN

31. Tehran's public position has been one of token support for the Arabs, largely because the Iranian people support their fellow Muslims. The Shah and other members of the Iranian government, however, are privately sympathetic to Israel. The Shah has sent medical supplies to the Arab side, arranged for the transfer of private Iranian contributions, and responded favorably to certain Arab diplomatic requests, but he has also attempted to dampen public support for the Arab cause by restraining religious leaders from further inciting their followers.

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